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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 MCT-01 DHA-02
AID-05 CCO-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05
SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01
A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 /090 W
----------251031Z 106225 /15
O 250913Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1662
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KARACHI 1938

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, PK
SUBJ: SECURITY/POLITICAL SITUATION IN SIND

REF: KARACHI 1916

1. SUMMARY: THE CURFEW REMAINS IN EFFECT IN KARACHI AND HYDERABAD BUT THE PERIOD OF DAILY RELAXATION HAS BEEN FURTHER EXTENDED APRIL 25. THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR HAS TAKEN STEPS TO TRY TO PREVENT PROFITEERING OF THE PRICES OF ESSENTIALS. HIS GOAL IS TO NORMALIZE ECONOMIC LIFE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT SERIOUS DISLOCATIONS PERSIST AND FEW FACTORIES ARE BACK AT WORK. CURFEW VIOLATIONS APRIL 24 WERE INSIGNIFICANT. THE PRESS LACKS NEWS OF THE PNA SINCE CENSORSHIP WAS IMPOSED BUT MOST PAPERS APRIL 25 FEATURED THE WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL DENOUNCING THE USG DELAY IN SHIPPING TEAR GAS TO PAKISTAN. THEORETICALLY STILL IN EFFECT, THE PLA STRIKE CALLED APRIL 20-IS MORIBUND BUT THE PLA HOPES TO CONVERT IT INTO A MASSIVE SLOWADOWN CAMPAIGN.
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THE PNA SEEMS TO HAVE ABANDONED THE POLICY OF DEFYING THE CURFEW AND MARTIAL LAW AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CURFEW IN KARACHI AND HYDERABAD IS BEING LIFTED APRIL 25 FROM 0530 TO 1000 AND 1500 TO 1800. THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR HAS ADDED FURTHER ENTITIES,

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INCLUDING SOME PRIVATE ENTERPRISES, TO THE LIST OF
ESSENTIAL SERVICES WHOSE EMPLOYEES ARE INSTRUCTED TO
REPORT TO WORK. HE HAS ALSO INSTRUCTED SHOPKEEPERS TO
POST THEIR PRICES AND HAS "WARNED" THEM TO RETURN THEIR
PRICES TO PRE-CURFEW LEVELS. SOME ENFORCEMENT OF THESE
PRICE CONTROL MEASURES IS BEING EFFECTED BY ROVING
MILITARY PERSONNEL; PARTIALLY AS A RESULT THERE HAS
REPORTEDLY BEEN AT LEAST SPOTTY STABILIZATION OF THE
PRICES OF ESSENTIAL GOODS. SHOPS AND MOST OFFICES ARE
FUNCTIONING AGAIN APRIL 25 BUT FEW FACTORIES ARE IN
OPERATION. THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR TOLD ME TODAY
THAT HIS GOAL IS TO NORMALIZE THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF KARACHI
AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE BUT HE ADMITTED THAT THE PORT
IS STILL WORKING AT ONLY ABOUT 50 PERCENT EFFIEIENCY.
IN THE INTEREST OF NORMALIZATION, HE PERSONALLY
AUTHORIZED OUR REOPENING OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL TODAY AND
TOLD ME THAT HE HOPES WITHIN A FEW DAYS TO DIRECT THE
OPENING OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT HAVE BEEN CLOSED FOR
MANY WEEKS.

3. SO FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, THERE
WERE NO SIGNIFICANT CURFEW VIOLATIONS IN KARACHI OR
HYDERABAD APRIL 24. THE SITUATION IN RURAL SIND ALSO
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN QUIET, EXCEPT FOR A SERIOUS BUT
UNSUCCESSFUL ARSON ATTEMPT AT SUKKUR. INFORMATION
ABOUT DISTURBANCES OR PNA ACTIVITIES REMAINS DIFFICULT
TO COME BY. THE PRESS IS LARGELY LACKING IN SUCH NEWS.
ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION THE MORNINGHPAPERS APRIL 25,
BOTH ENGLISH AND VERNACULAR, FEATURED THE WASHINGTON
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POST EDITORIAL DENOUNCING THE USG DECISION TO WITHHOLD
THE TEAR GAS SHIPMENT FOR PAKISTAN. (EARLIER REPORTS
HAD GIVEN US THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EDITORIAL APPEARED
IN THE NEW YORK TIMES.)

4. THEORETICALLY, THE INDEFINITE STRIKE LAUNCHED BY THE
PLA APRIL 20 IS STILL IN EFFECT. IN FACT, IT IS HAVING
NO EFFECT THAT CAN BE DISTINGUISHED FROM THE EFFECT OF THE
CURFEW, MARTIAL LAW AND GENERAL DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC
LIFE, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW INSTANCES OF PEOPLE
THROWING STONES AT CARS ON THE PRETEXT OF THE CONTINUING
STRIKE. MOHAMMED SHARIF, PRESIDENT OF THE PLA, IS SAID
TO HAVE SENT LETTERS TO LABOR ORGANIZATIONS (INCLUDING THE
AFL/CIO) AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS ABROAD, SEEKING

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 MCT-01 DHA-02
AID-05 CCO-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05
SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01
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LAB-04 SIL-01 /090 W
----------251101Z 106073 /20
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FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1663
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KARACHI 1938

THEIR SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
THE ALLEGED ILLEGALITY OF MARTIAL LAW AND THE SUP-
PRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN. SOURCES WITH
CONTACTS IN THE PLA STATE THAT THE LEADERSHIP RECOGNIZES
THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF MAINTAINING AN EFFECTIVE STRIKE
WITH WORKERS UNDER MILITARY ORDERS TO GO TO WORK, BUT
WILL NOW PURSUE A STRATEGY OF SLOW-DOWN AT THE WORK
PLACES. IN THE GENERAL CONFUSION NOW PERTAINING, IT
WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ISOLATE AND IDENTIFY THE RESULTS
OF DELIBERATE SLOW-DOWN TACTICS.

5. THE PNA APPARENTLY IS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF DE-
FINING ITS NEW STRATEGY, EXCEPT FOR THE ANNOUNCED MASS-
PROTEXT MARCH FROM LAHORE TO RAWALPINDI SCHEDULED FOR
APRIL 30. THE POLICY OF OPENLY DEFYING MARTIAL LAW
AND THE CURFEW SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ABANDONED, ALTHOUGH
WE UNDERSTAND FROM SOURCES WITH CONTACTS IN THE PARTY
THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO BRINGING WOMEN AND
CHILDREN INTO THE STREETS IN A SHOW OF DEFIANCE. THE
PNA AFFIRMS CONTINUED CONFIDENCE IN ITS ABILITY TO WIN
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ITS AIMS, BUT IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE LIKELIHOOD
OF ITS TIMETABLE HAVING TO BE LENGTHENED BECAUSE OF THE
PARTIAL MARTIAL LAW. THOUGH HAMPERED BY PRESS CENSORSHIP

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AND THE BAN ON POLITICAL POSTERS AND LEAFLETS, THE PNA IS MANAGING TO MAINTAIN A FAIRLY EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. THE TEXT OF A PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTEDLY GIVEN BY MAULANA MAUDOODI IN LAHORE APRIL 24 IS CURRENTLY CIRCULATING IN KARACHI. HIS MAIN THEME, AS IT APPARENTLY IS THAT OF THE PNA AT THIS TIME, WAS THE ASSERTION THAT THE PARTIAL MARTIAL LAW IS ILLEGAL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, SECURITY, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: KARACHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2707672
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY/POLITICAL SITUATION IN SIND
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
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